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6/17/2008
K. A. C. 6/17/2008

MEMORANDUM: Re: Study of Classified Printing by the Staff of the Joint Committee on Printing

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1. The undersigned, accompanied by [redacted] of the Security Office, on this date attended the second meeting held by the Joint Committee on Printing to consider various problems with respect to classified printing. Representatives of Navy, Justice, GPO, State Department, Air Force, Army, Atomic Energy Commission, and the Committee staff were present at this meeting.

2. Mr. Paul Beach, Chief Clerk of the Committee, acted as chairman of the meeting. He opened the meeting by asking the various agency representatives to give answers to the questions regarding adequacy of CSC investigation and centralization of classified printing which were discussed at the last meeting. Rather than direct answers to these questions by the agency representatives, there followed a general discussion of security clearances and problems involved.

3. The GPO representative again discussed that agency's handling of classified printing and there was a further discussion as to the advantages of the GPO following their present plan of securing various areas in the main GPO rather than setting up another plant to handle this work.

4. This full discussion was fruitful in that it finally brought out the fact that the Department of Defense will accept the CSC full field investigation of GPO employees and will send up to and including Top Secret work to the main GPO plant. Department of Defense representatives stated that they would require certain agreements with the Public Printer to assure compliance with physical and other security requirements of the Department and that they know of no reason why this set-up would not be satisfactory to them. AEC had previously stated that additional clearances were required by law for persons handling their printing and they did not think it possible for them to send their work to the main GPO plant. CIA had also previously stated that it does not require the facilities of the main GPO plant for its classified printing. The situation thus became somewhat simplified due to the fact that the Department of Defense and State Department would be the only users of the main GPO for classified printing. It has been made clear to the group that CIA will continue to depend upon its own facilities and the GPO-State Service plant for its classified printing. So far, the State Service plant has not been discussed by this group, except to note that it does exist and does do classified printing for certain of the agencies.

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5. Some members of the group felt that a more intelligent approach to the problem would be possible if the Security and printing people of the agencies concerned visited the GPO to see first hand the security measures taken for the handling of classified printing. Mr. Beach therefore requested the agency representatives to meet with GPO officials on Thursday, 21 October 1954, at 10:00 A.M. to inspect the arrangements which GPO has made to date for the handling of classified printing and to discuss with GPO security and other officials their proposed plans for the handling of this work. He stated that the group would discuss at their next meeting the opinions and considerations of those who had reviewed the situation at the main GPO plant and thus arrive at a final decision on this matter. I stated that since CIA was not directly concerned with the main GPO situation it did not seem necessary for us to take part in this phase of the survey. Mr. Beach, however, indicated that he would like to have us represented on the visit to GPO. Desiring to discuss the question of our participation in this phase of the survey with my superiors prior to making a commitment, I informed Mr. Beach that I would telephone him regarding this visit to GPO.

6. The next meeting will be held on 2 November 1954.

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